



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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INSURANCE & REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE

Co-Chairs Senator McCrory and Representative Sanchez, Ranking Members Senator Berthel and Representative McCarty, and esteemed members of the Education Committee

I am writing today to express my support for HB 5283, An Act Concerning The Education Cost Sharing Grant Formula And The Funding Of Other Education Programs

It is extremely important that we continue to work towards a student-centered funding system. Equally funding all students will help remove the economic and racial disparities we see in the ECS formula today. This bill would take the necessary steps to bring Norwalk and other municipalities closer to equality in funding. Additionally, fully funding the ECS formula would allow municipalities to fully use federal funding without the fear of a financial cliff when the federal funding goes away.

For Norwalk, even though 68% of Norwalk Public School students are identified as high needs, Norwalk is set to lose their Alliance District status because it has outperformed the metrics of the program. This will result in a gradual decrease of funds received annually. Students and municipalities alike shouldn't be punished with losing funding because of outperforming the metrics.

It is time we give all municipalities the ability to fully fund their public schools and give these students the support they deserve. I implore the Education Committee to support HB 5283

Thank you for your time and I implore the Education Committee to support HB 5283.

Sincerely,

Lucy Dathan
State Representative
142nd district